**Professor: Lauren Klein (lauren.klein@lmc.gatech.edu)**

**Office Hours: M/W 1:00-2:00pm, Skiles 359 (and by appointment)**

# Course Website: http://lkleincourses.lcc.gatech.edu/archives12/

**LMC 4400: Seminar in Media Studies**

**M/W/F 2:05-2:55pm, Skiles 354**

# Course Prerequisites

LCC 2100 or LCC 2700 or LMC 2700 or LMC 2850

**Core Area**

Humanities

# Course Description

This seminar in media studies, “Archives, Media, and Materiality,” is about why people keep things, how people keep things, and the things that, try as they may, people cannot keep at all. From archives of documents to archives of junk, we will explore the concept of “the archive,” and how it is transformed in the digital age. We will examine theoretical formulations of—and challenges to—the archive through the lens of literary accounts of archives, as well as examples of archives, both print and digital, from the Georgia Tech and Emory library systems. We will interrogate the meaning of the archive in the context of a range of media forms, as well as the issues of materiality that those forms engage. We will explore the social, cultural, and political forces that underlie the archive’s construction. Finally, we will explore current issues and concerns with respect to digital archival design. In lieu of a final paper, we will work together as a class to design and implement a digital archive of materials from the Bud Foote Science Fiction Collection here at Georgia Tech.

**Learning Outcomes**

* Students will develop an understanding of the concept of “the archive.”
* Students will become aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.
* Students will learn to gather, organize, and express information clearly and accurately, with sensitivity to will be able to do so both by using traditional media and by tapping the potential of new digital media.
* Students will create a thoroughly-considered digital archive of selected materials from the Bud Foote Science Fiction Collection.

Students will also master the following STAC/LMC Learning Outcomes

Textual/Visual Analysis: Students will learn to read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art, and new media, but also scientific and technical documents.

Literary/Film/Narrative Art Inquiry: Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.

# Required Texts

Available at Engineer’s Bookstore and online:

Lev Grossman, *Codex* (Harvest, 2005, ISBN-10: 9085193885).

Don DeLillo, *Mao II* (Penguin Books, 1992. ISBN-10: 0140152741)

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* (Mariner Books, 2007. ISBN-10: 0618871713)

Anne Carson, *Nox* (New Directions, 2012. ISBN-10: 0811218708)

Mark Danielewski, *House of Leaves* (Pantheon, 2000. ISBN-10: 0375703764)

Additional readings to be posted on course website.

# List of Graded Assignments

Your grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

* Participation and quizzes: 10%
* Blog posts: 30%
* Project presentations: 5% each (10% total)
* Project reflections: 10% each (20% total)
* Final project: 30%

All assignments will be graded on an A-F scale.

When calculating final grades, I convert letter grades to a simplified 4.0 scale:

A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0

If you are curious about the criteria I employ when grading blog posts, please refer to this chart developed by Professor Mark Sample of George Mason University:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **GRADE** | **CHARACTERISTICS** |
| **A** | **Exceptional**. The blog entry is focused and coherently integrates examples with explanations or analysis. The entry demonstrates awareness of its own limitations or implications, and it considers multiple perspectives when appropriate. The entry reflects in-depth engagement with the topic. |
| **B** | **Satisfactory.** The blog entry is reasonably focused, and explanations or analysis are mostly based on examples or other evidence. Fewer connections are made between ideas, and though new insights are offered, they are not fully developed. The entry reflects moderate engagement with the topic. |
| **C** | **Underdeveloped.** The blog entry is mostly description or summary, without consideration of alternative perspectives, and few connections are made between ideas. The entry reflects passing engagement with the topic. |
| **D** | **Limited.** The blog entry is unfocused, or simply rehashes previous comments, and displays no evidence of student engagement with the topic. |
| **F** | **No Credit.** The blog entry is missing or consists of one or two disconnected sentence. |

**Attendance Policy**

You are allowed three excused absences. Beginning with the fourth absence, your overall course grade will be lowered by a full letter grade (e.g. A to B) for each unexcused absence. This means that if you miss more than six classes, you will fail the course.

Please be respectful to your fellow students and arrive on time. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, you will be considered absent for that class. If you absolutely must miss a class meeting, please contact me at least 24 hours in advance in order to make alternate arrangements.

**ADAPTS Contact Information**

Students with disabilities should self-report to the Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) at:

Smithgall Student Services Building, Suite 220

Phone: (404) 894-2564

TTD: (404) 894-1664

Email: [adaptsinfo@gatech.edu](mailto:adaptsinfo@gatech.edu)

<http://adapts.gatech.edu/>

# Honor Code Statement

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offense. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment and possibly in the course, as well as potential disciplinary action. For more information, please refer to the definition of “academic misconduct” included in the Georgia Tech honor code, available online at:

<http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>

If you are unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me before submitting your assignment.

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**Week by Week Schedule**

**Introduction and Overview**

* **Monday, August 20th**

Course introduction

In class: From Keri Smith, *This is Not a Book*

* **Wednesday, August 22nd**

Sam Dolnick, “[In a Hoarder’s Home, Going All Out to Find the Floor](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/26/nyregion/26hoarder.html?_r=2&hpw)”

John Leland, “[Surprise Bounty for Cleanup Artist](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/12/nyregion/after-a-recluses-death-a-cleanup-man-reaps-a-trove-of-art.html?pagewanted=all)”

* **Friday, August 24th**

Ryan Clements, “[Chain World: Crafting a Religion](http://pc.ign.com/articles/115/1154096p1.html)”

Jason Fagone, “[*Chain World* Videogame Was Supposed to be a Religion—Not a Holy War](http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/07/mf_chainworld/all/1)”

Due

Blog I: Intro

**Unit 1: Archives**

* **Monday, August 27th**

Lev Grossman, *Codex*, Chapters 1-4

* **Wednesday, August 29th**

*Codex*, Chapters 5-9

WEDNESDAY Lab day: Introduction to the archives. Meet at archives.

* **Friday, August 31st**

*Codex,* Chapters 10-14

* **Monday, September 3rd** – NO CLASS, Labor Day
* **Wednesday, September 5th**

*Codex*, Chapters 15-19

* **Friday, September 7th**

*Codex*, Chapters 20 to end

Due

Blog II: On *Codex*

* **Monday, September 10th**

MONDAY Lab day: Second archives session. Meet at archives.

* **Wednesday, September 12th**

Carolyn Steedman, from *Dust*  (PDF)

* **Friday, September 14th**

Lab day: Technical training.

**Unit 2: Media**

* **Monday, September 17th**
* William Gibson, “[Agrippa](http://www.williamgibsonbooks.com/source/agrippa.asp)”

Matthew Kirschenbaum, “Text Messaging: The Transformissions of

Agrippa” (PDF)

* **Wednesday, September 19th**

Alan Liu et al., [*The Agrippa Files*](http://agrippa.english.ucsb.edu/)

* **Friday, September 21st**

Lab day: Product requirements document.

Due

Blog III: Digital archive critique

* **Monday, September 24th**

Don DeLillo, *Mao II*, Chapters 1-3

*\*\*11:05-11:15: Project managers present to U. Vic Digital Humanities class*

* **Wednesday, September 26th**

*Mao II*, Chapters 4-6

* **Friday, September 28th**

*Mao II*, Chapters 8-10

Lab day: Choose platform.

* **Monday, October 1st**

*Mao II*, Chapters 11-12

*\*\*11:05-11:15: U. Vic Digital Humanities class presents to us*

* **Wednesday, October 3rd**

*Mao II*, Chapters 13 to end

* **Friday, October 5th**

Lab day: Begin wire-framing.

Due

Blog IV: On *Mao II*

**Unit 3: Materiality**

* **Monday, October 8th**

Bill Brown, “Materiality” (PDF)

N. Katherine Hayles, “Media and Materiality,” and “Material Metaphors,

Technotexts and Media-Specific Analysis” (PDF)

* **Wednesday, October 10th**

Matthew Kirschenbaum, “Every Contact Leaves a Trace” (PDF)

* **Friday, October 12th**

Lab day: *TBD*

* **Monday, October 15th** – NO CLASS, Fall Break
* **Wednesday, October 17th**

WEDNESDAY Lab day: *TBD*

* **Friday, October 19th**

Due

Presentation of archive prototype

*\*\*In class critique with Georgia Tech Archives librarians*

* **Monday, October 22nd**

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*, Chapters 1-4

* **Wednesday, October 24th**

*Fun Home*, Chapters 5 to end

* **Friday, October 26th**

Lab day: *TBD*

* **Monday, October 29th**

Anne Carson, *Nox*, first half

* **Wednesday, October 31st**

Anne Carson, *Nox*, second half

* **November, November 2nd**

Lab day: *TBD*

Due

Blog V: On *Fun Home* & *Nox*

**Unit IV: Memory**

* **Monday, November 5th**

Jacques Derrida, from *Archive Fever* (PDF)

* **Wednesday, November 7th**

WEDNESDAY Lab day: *TBD*

* **Friday, November 9th**

Michel Rolph Trouillot, from *Silencing the Past* (PDF)

* **Monday, November 12th**

Mark Danielewski, *House of Leaves*, 1-24

* **Wednesday, November 14th**

*House of Leaves*, 25-79

* **Friday, November 16th**

Lab day: *TBD*

Due

Blog VI: *TBD*

* **Monday, November 19th** – NO CLASS MEETING, Professor out of town

*House of Leaves*, 80-152

* **Wednesday, November 21st** – NO CLASS MEETING, Professor out of town

*House of Leaves*, 153-245

* **Friday, November 23rd** – NO CLASS, Thanksgiving
* **Monday, November 26th**

*House of Leaves*, 246-346

* **Wednesday, November 28th**

*House of Leaves*, 347-422

WEDNESDAY Lab day: *TBD*

* **Friday, November 30th**

*House of Leaves*, 423-528

Due

Blog VII: *TBD*

* **Monday, December 3th**

MONDAY Lab day: Final tweaking.

**Wednesday, December 5th**

Presentations

* **Friday, December 7th**

Presentations

**December 11th, 2:50pm - Final archive and reflection due**